

Pastor Gene Willard Craig Lansberry, Sr. DD

1125 Laird St.

Akron, Ohio 44305-3227

(234) 738-1338

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Save My VRS

Federal Communication Commission

9300 East Hampton, Drive,

Capital Heights, MD 20743

Re; Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commissioner's Rules, 47 C.F.R
Reference CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

The FCC is to take away needed Functions of, my wife's Video Relay Service Phone? They already took the direct number away; this made her unable to call Direct Video Phone to Video Phone: Now Relay Service; is always Required! (as I understand)The new changes will hinder safety for Handicapped People, 911 services will severely be effected. Cynther is Profound Deaf at times; she is at times mute from prescribed medications. I am losing my sight from: Retinitis Pigmentosa & can no longer drive, If you make these proposed cuts, we will be more unsafe in our home, to the point of not being able to access Emergency Services at all. My being Blind means I can't answer her Phone; I can't see the Hand-Movements. I'm already limited in communication with Cynther my wife. Blind equipment is already very expensive, when living solely on Social Security.

Paste Gene W. C. Lansberry, Sr. DD

Pastor Gene W. C. Lansberry Sr. DD

Received & Inspected
NOV 19 2012

FOI Mail Room

To whom this will concern:

FCC Headquarters:

(save)
Please keep my Sorenson
VRS Video.

We do use the VRS on
TV for doctor's office visits
or appointment, Walmart
Pharmacy for medicines,
talk to dear friends &
some hearing persons (family)

We enjoyed use the
Sorenson VRS

Thank you!

Walter / Geraldine Lewis

802 Ash Drive

Winchester, Ky 40391-8503

ATTN (home) FAX ONLY 1-859-737-2555

Video 859-759-0828

geraldine.l.lewis@gmail.com

Roadrunner.com

geraldine-lewis@roadrunner.com

Received & Inspected

NOV 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

November 12, 2012

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Washington DC 20554

Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission,

I am writing in regards to CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51, on the matter of proposed reform to the current Video Relay Services.

I am a Hard of Hearing American and voter. I recently learned of severe cuts to communications that will affect millions of deaf, deaf/ blind, hard of hearing, and speech - impaired Americans. These cuts have been proposed in the name of reform by the Federal Communications Commission regarding the Video Relay Services that assist us provided by Video Relay Service providers such as Sorenson and Purple, etc. Please see the following explanation:
<http://www.savemyvrs.com/>. by Sorenson Video Relay Services.

According to this information by Sorenson Video Relay Services, the FCC is proposing reform (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) that incorporates devastating cuts to important communication services for schools for the deaf, services for deaf and hard of hearing, and businesses, including employment of deaf, hard of hearing, and speech - impaired Americans. Services which are already being provided by Video Relay Service providers assist us in communicating with 911 emergency services, medical professionals, transportation services, human services and welfare, government, businesses, employment, etc.

I am a teacher of the deaf at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont, California. The VRS Services provided by Sorenson VRS and other VRS providers is *essential* in providing equal communication and education with staff, students, parents, and the community. My colleagues and I frequently use VRS to communicate with the parents of our school. Recently, a deaf staff member on campus needed 911 emergency assistance. This was done through VRS 911 services. He is now recovering from a serious heart attack.

Further, I teach deaf and hard of hearing students with Special Needs. Much of my educational curriculum also includes teaching life skills. This includes teaching students to communicate as needed with families, services, emergency care, transportation, businesses, employers, etc. VRS

is a critical part of my students' education. VRS is essential in helping my students learn to become self-reliant American citizens upon graduation from high school.

Additionally, I, as a Hard of Hearing American, rely on VRS services to contact family, friends, church members, businesses, agencies, employers, and emergency services. The standard telephone does not work for me. It certainly does not work for my roommate who is deaf and legally blind. She relies heavily on VRS services to communicate for her needs.

The FCC is proposing (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) to cut important communication services; severely limiting services *ALREADY* being provided by VRS providers. Not only does it hurt those with whom I live and work with but it also disregards the rights we have under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additionally, if these proposals are passed and implemented by the FCC, millions of deaf, deaf / blind, speech – impaired, and hard of hearing Americans who are low income will not be able to afford purchasing low -quality, "off - the - shelf," expensive equipment to replace what they already have. This will severely cripple their ability to communicate when needed. Why replace what is already provided with new reform? Why add to their disability instead of enabling and empowering them? Why reinvent the wheel? Why create unnecessary expenses? This is NOT an economic, money - saving measure. This is NOT positive reform.

According to the FCC website on accessibility:

"Video Relay Service enables people with hearing disabilities who use American Sign Language to communicate with voice telephone users through video equipment, rather than through typed text. IP relay allows people who have difficulty hearing or speaking to communicate through a traditional telephone system. IP relay is accessed using a computer and the Internet, rather than a TTY and a telephone," (<http://www.fcc.gov/topic/relay-services>).

And:

"The FCC is committed to ensuring that telecommunications are accessible to individuals with disabilities. To meet this commitment, the FCC takes guidance from the Access Board, an independent federal agency devoted to accessibility for people with disabilities. The Access

Board establishes federal standards for electronic and information technology under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act," (<http://www.fcc.gov/topic/accessibility>).

I am very concerned by the news that FCC is disregarding the needs and rights of millions of deaf, deaf / blind, hard of hearing, and speech-impaired Americans by making proposals (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) to reform Video Relay Services. This does not stand up to the Federal Communications Commission's statement (see above) of being committed to ensuring access to persons with disabilities. This is NOT positive reform and it is *NOT* in the best interest of persons with disabilities.

I have already contacted my U.S. Senators for California, Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein, about this concern. I will soon be contacting my Representative in the House. I have requested they assist us and look into this matter. I would hope the FCC will take mine and millions of other persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, and speech – impaired, concerns seriously and work to assure *equal access* to communication and follow up with FCC's commitment in this regard. I am asking that the Federal Communications Commission dismiss and / or remove its proposals (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) for reform.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annette Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Annette" and last name "Anderson" clearly distinguishable.

Annette Anderson
37167 Panton Terrace # 1012
Fremont, CA 94536

Email: ann123ily@yahoo.com.

NOV 19 2012

11/12/2012

FCC Mail Room

To Whosoever reads E' handles this.

The Sorenson equipments we use belongs to me & the modem connected to the video relay belongs to the cable company & pays the modem on my monthly cable bill.

The VRS equipment was provided to the deafs & hard of hearings free at no charge.

When on VRS - the interpreters is there when I talks to my families - hearing friends. I reads the interpreters' sign languages to enable me to understands what my hearing friends are saying. I cannot reads their lips on the phone! Also we have emergencies 911 too. I depends on VRS alot!

Does not work to make the proposed changes that way. It's

the cable bills we pays to. 2-

Thank you,
Sincerely
yours,

Diane Bridges

P.S. Also we have Sign-mail
Like my mother tries to
get ahold of me & I am
not home, the VRS interpreter
will leave a message for
my mother. When I gets
home, I gets the messages
from the t.v. & computer
then I call my mother
back.

Received & Inspected

NOV 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

To FCC,

My name is Jean Arnold. I am deaf and use VRS to stay in connect with family and friends. a reason is because I have what if I have problem something to trust part my family know more than another. also emergency 911 services.

Thank You

~~Jean Arnold~~
Ronald L. Arnold

MA + + NEW
+ + MOD

P.S. my husband is deaf too. He is Name Ronald Arnold. also my son is deaf too He is name Matthew Arnold.

Received & Inspected

NOV 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

To FCC,

I am deaf. My name is Joan Arnold. We don't want VRS equipment any things removed.

My husband is deaf too. His name is Ronald Arnold also my son is deaf. His name Matthew Arnold.

We are a deaf family and we rely on this service to communicate with our family and friends to lose this service would hurt us. We love to use Sorenson II touch and any VRS.

Thank You

Joan Arnold
Ronald L. Arnold

Matthew

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

Received & Inspected

NOV 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

Federal
Communications
Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker,

I am a deaf person who uses Video Relay Service over broadband to communicate in American Sign Language, my primary language. For those of us who are deaf, VRS is a life-altering broadband service that is a vital link to the hearing community.

Ensuring that deaf individuals have access to VRS and encouraging improvements in VRS should be a high priority for you as Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires the FCC to make available to all deaf individuals nationwide "functionally equivalent" communications.

You will soon determine the future of VRS. When you set the VRS rate, you will determine whether America makes progress toward the statutory goals of functional equivalence, nationwide access, and inclusion – or force deaf users to revert to TTY communications. And, you will determine whether VRS fulfills its potential to drive broadband adoption by the deaf, even in the face of disproportionate poverty, disenfranchisement, and isolation.

I was deeply disturbed to see the Commission's recent Public Notice on VRS rates. These proposals will push VRS providers into bankruptcy and mean an end to VRS.

You should be increasing the availability and use of VRS, not cutting back. You should adopt a rate that encourages continuing improvements in VRS technology. Recent developments in VRS are a good example of how the service can be improved, such as enhanced 911 services, 10-digit numbering, a larger and better-trained pool of interpreters, and better videophones with an array of enhanced features. Monthly payments for broadband are a big expense for many deaf people, and instead of trying to cut back on VRS, you should be exploring ways to make VRS over broadband more affordable to deaf individuals.

Progress toward functional equivalence will be destroyed if the FCC does not encourage VRS providers to improve VRS and make it more widely available. VRS is a recent and dramatic advancement that benefits those who are deaf, but so much more can be done. It would be tragic if the FCC were to destroy this broadband service that is so vital to the deaf.

I urge you to establish a fair and predictable rate for VRS that will encourage VRS providers to invest in improving VRS and reaching more deaf individuals. The law requires it and it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Signature James M. Jica Date 11/13/12

Name James Mojica

Address 442-61 Street

City Brooklyn State NY ZIP 11220

Email JMOJICA1966@Yahoo.com

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

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NOV 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

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445 Twelfth Street SW
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I urge you to establish a fair and predictable rate for VRS that will encourage VRS providers to invest in improving VRS and reaching more deaf individuals. The law requires it and it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Signature

~~Commissioner~~ Rosa Flete

Date

11/13/12

Name

Rosa Flete

Address

442-61 St

City

Brooklyn

State

NY

ZIP

11220

Email

Jmofka1966@yahoo.com

NOV 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

November 14, 2012

Dear Sir,

We are deaf and use VRS to stay in touch with family and friends - - - . Also use VRS to Doctors and hospitals - - - . Pharmacy - - - .

We are deaf & rely on VRS for emergency 911 Service.

Please stay VRS for us & deafall - - -

Thank you -

Robert W and Anna K Smith

213 Western Ave.
Medway Oh 451341

NOV 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

November 14, 2012

Dear FCC

As a deaf constituent living in your district, I am writing to make you aware of the FCC's Public Notice (CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51) on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates."

I am deaf and VRS is how I stay in touch with my family and friends who are not deaf. I'm sure hearing people don't think about what it means to be able to pick up the phone and call anyone any time or anywhere they want. But for me, this means everything. VRS has changed my life.

I am alarmed the FCC is proposing to dramatically change the VRS program. Why is the FCC going out of its way to fix something that isn't broken?

I think there are two crucial reasons to keep the current VRS system in place.

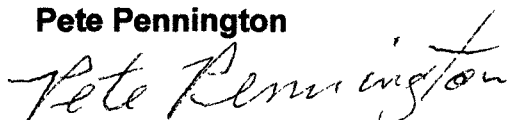
First, I like the company I do business with. I don't want to be forced to switch companies because the one I work with has gone out of business.

Second, I don't want to have to buy and set up my own VRS equipment. I got my equipment at no cost from my VRS provider. They installed it and continue to maintain it. It would be unfair to now shift this burden to me and other deaf people. If the government wants to prevent deaf people from connecting with others and using VRS, this is a good way to do it.

The VRS program works for people who are deaf. It's how we communicate every day with the hearing world and how the hearing world communicates with us. Any changes to the program must be in the best interest of deaf Americans. The changes being considered by the FCC are not. I hope that you will help prevent these changes from taking place.

Pete Pennington
1165 Colony Dr. Apt 321
Westerville, OH 43081
614-423-6671

Pete Pennington



November 11, 2012

F. C. C.

445 12th St. SW

Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Received & Inspected

11/19/2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) request for comments on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." I am very concerned about these proposals and how they will affect my family's safety. I and my family members are all **Deaf**.

VRS is a lifeline. It allows me to conduct business, connect with my family and friends and do many other things over the phone that many hearing people take for granted. Most important, though, VRS is how I access my local emergency 911 service. In an emergency I know that when I place a 911 call it will be answered immediately. My location will be known. And, specially trained American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be there to make sure my local emergency responders know exactly what help I need. You can't imagine how frightening it is to think that I might not be able to get help for me or my family because of long hold times, poorly trained interpreters, or bad equipment.

Cutting the rates paid to VRS providers as low as the FCC proposes will only reduce the service quality I currently depend on. How will these companies hire and keep skilled ASL interpreters on staff when the government is proposing dramatic cuts to their compensation? How will 911 calls be answered immediately when there are fewer interpreters and longer hold times? How will I know that my VRS will work when I'm using a videophone from Wal-Mart instead of the specially designed videophone from my VRS provider? Why is the FCC going out of its way to fix something that isn't broken?

I hope the FCC has answers to all of the questions before it considers changing the current system. Any changes to the program must be in the best interest of Deaf Americans.

Sincerely,


George Scheler

125 Expo Pkwy. NE

Albany, Or. 97322

SAVE
MY

Received & Inspected

MAY 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

VRS: V

Barbara Purdy

November 11, 2012

Received & Inspected

NOV 19 2012

FCC Mail Room

F. C. C.

445 12th St. SW

Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Dear Sirs,

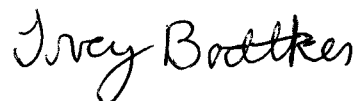
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I hope the FCC has answers to all of the questions before it considers changing the current system. Any changes to the program must be in the best interest of Deaf Americans.

Sincerely,



Troy Bodtke

94213 River Rd.

Junction City, Or. 97448

4 Alma Court
Troy, New York 12180-1136
November 14, 2012

Received & Inspected
NOV 19 2012
FCC Mail Room

Director
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Director:

I am writing this letter to stop the proposal reform called CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51 because I use the video relay service (VRS) daily for doctor's appointments, family and friend plans, tutoring times with my students, and ASL lessons. People from the doctor's office, friends, certain stores (The Home Depot, Toyota Service Center, and the college) and pharmacy left the video messages to tell me that appointments or others are approved or changed or ready. These became easier for my work schedule daily.

I am the Time Warner Cable customer for many years so I rely on the VRS for questions and bill payments. Without the cable, I won't be able to communicate with people via VRS. The quality of VRS on the high-speed cable is excellent and clear without interruption.

The VRS is very beneficial for me because the trained interpreters communicate with me in American Sign Language (ASL), my native language. This helps me understand the messages clearly. If the message is not clearly conveyed, I can stop the interpreter to clarify this or to repeat the message. I can see the hand shapes of letters, facial expression, body language and mouthing of the interpreters. These are the Deaf cultural behaviors. Communication is very useful!

About 2 years ago, you required enhanced 911 in videophones. Recently my friend's life was saved through 911. He had neither family nor friends who live nearby. 911 are life-saving!

Please don't let the proposal reform pass. VRS is the best technological communication tool I ever have! It is very reliable!

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl Puorunas